

C. Remarks

At the outset, Applicants and the undersigned wish to thank Examiner Miller for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview conducted on June 22, 2004.

In the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,662,014 to Walsh, claims 2-12, 14-23, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walsh in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,647,257 to Owensby, and claims 13 and 24 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walsh in view Owensby and U.S. Patent No. 5,852,775 to Hidary. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections as follows.

1. Claims 1-15

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to provide:

[a] method of providing an identity-blocking service,
comprising:

obtaining an identity of a user operating a wireless
communication device;

continuously obtaining, at pre-determined time
intervals, first information about a location
of the user; and

continuously transferring the first information about
the location of the user to a third party
without disclosing the identity of the user to the
third party.

Support for this amendment may be found throughout the specification as filed, such as, for example, at page 9, lines 17-19 and page 21, lines 25-30. Applicants note that although the above amendment differs in form from the proposed amendment discussed

during the telephonic interview, the substance and scope of the amendment have not changed.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by Walsh because Walsh fails to disclose each and every element of the amended claim. See MPEP § 2131 (stating that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is disclosed in a single prior art reference). More particularly, Applicants submit that Walsh fails to disclose, among other things, a method of providing an identity-blocking service that includes the steps of (1) “continuously obtaining, at pre-determined time intervals, first information about a location of the user,” and (2) “continuously transferring the first information about the location of the user to a third party without disclosing the identity of the user to the third party,” as recited in amended claim 1.

Walsh discloses a method for managing communications between a wireless communications device 102 and a remote source 108 such that at least one of an identify and a location of the wireless communication device 102 are prohibited from being known to the remote source 108. See, e.g., Abstract. Walsh discloses that the remote source 108 includes a location-enabled service. The disclosed method is such that a location-enabled service is either “pulled” by the wireless communication device 102 (i.e., the location-enabled service is requested by wireless communication device 102) or “pushed” to the wireless communication device 102 (i.e., location-enabled service requests location information from the wireless communication device 102 via the location privacy manager 106). See, e.g., steps 803 and 811 of Figure 8, column 8, lines 42-46, and column 9, lines 10-15. In both cases, Walsh fails to teach that the method includes either the step of “continuously obtaining, at pre-determined time intervals, first information about a location

of the user,” or the step of “continuously transferring the first information about the location of the user to a third party without disclosing the identity of the user to the third party,” as recited in amended claim 1. In other words, the location privacy manager 106 does not continuously “track” the location of the wireless communication device 102 whenever the wireless communication device 102 is in use. To the contrary, Walsh merely discloses that the exchange of location information via “push” or “pull” transactions occurs only when a specific need for the location information arises. Accordingly, Applicants submit that amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Walsh and therefore respectfully request that the §102(e) rejection associated with claim 1 be withdrawn.

Applicants have amended dependent claims 8 and 9 to conform to the amendment of base claim 1. Applicants have also canceled dependent claim 10.

Applicants submit that for the reasons set forth above, amended claim 1 is also nonobvious over the Walsh. See MPEP § 2143 (stating that in order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, all claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art). Thus, Applicants submit that claims 2-9 and 11-15 depending from claim 1 are nonobvious over the references of record. See MPEP §2143.03 (stating that if an independent claim is nonobvious under §103(a), then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the §103(a) rejections associated with claims 2-9 and 11-15 be withdrawn.

2. Claims 16-25

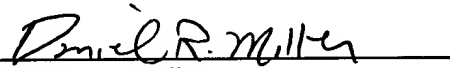
Applicants have also amended independent claim 16 in a manner similar to claim 1. For reasons analogous to those set forth above with respect to claim 1, Applicants submit

that amended claim 16, as well as claims 17-25 depending therefrom, are non-obvious over the references of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the §103(a) rejections associated with claims 16-25 be withdrawn.

Applicants have amended dependent claims 20 and 22 to conform to the amendment of base claim 16.

D. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for the pending claims in the present application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that the present application is in condition for disposition other than allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below in order that the Examiner's concerns may be expeditiously addressed.


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